

Communication from Public

Name: Steve Green

Date Submitted: 06/19/2020 05:10 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not defend the police....that is a ridiculous idea in regards to solving anything. Educate the police and the people against the police.....thats what is necessary....

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/19/2020 05:19 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police. All calls except for active violent crimes should be handled by trained, unarmed civilian employees. 1.85 billion is a ridiculous amount to spend on police when virtually nothing is spent on education, homelessness, job training, and all the other things we know reduce crime rates. Our police are too armed, too poorly trained, too militarized to protect the citizenry. The greatly reduced police force we keep should have an AA or BA degree, be trained for longer, require state licensure and not have qualified immunity. Officers fired for cause should lose pensions and be personally liable for damages and should not be able to be rehired as police by any department. Follow the lead of Camden, NJ where this exact model has been successful. Defund the police.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/19/2020 05:50 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defend the Police, defunding them is ridiculous.

Communication from Public

Name: Askari Ali

Date Submitted: 06/19/2020 12:44 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Askari Ali and I am a resident of North Hollywood, CA. In the midst of worldwide protests against police brutality and killing, many of this country's police departments responded with more police brutality. There is a ridiculous amount of video evidence that backs my statement. There is no amount of legislation or sensitivity/diversity training that will rid us of people who consciously make the decision to abuse their power. As my elected City Council representatives, I demand you take immediate action on reducing the amount of the LAPD budget and redirect those funds as outline in The People's Budget Report - Los Angeles attached to this public comment.

INTRODUCTION

The People's Budget LA Coalition has undertaken an urgent public process of participatory budgeting to solicit input of Angelenos on their priorities for the city and how they would like public resources to be spent. This project emerged rapidly and in direct response to the secretive, undemocratic process and draconian spending plan introduced by Mayor Eric Garcetti, and left unchallenged by City Council. Now, we present our updated People's Budget based on over 24,000 survey responses.

Since we put out our original budget in late May, an ongoing national uprising has occurred in response to police murders, with many Black-led organizations mobilizing huge numbers of people with the main demand of "defund the police" — including a BLM-LA protest that got thousands of people to show up outside the mansion of Mayor Garcetti. The Mayor and certain City Councilmembers have responded to this pressure with a proposal for cuts to LAPD between \$100-\$150 million; our document shows that this is not nearly enough.

This report updates our findings and presents a People's Budget alternative to the Mayor's proposed 2020-21 budget. **Our document and data both reveal a clear referendum: invest in universal needs (e.g., housing security, public health/health care, mental health and wellness, etc.) and divest from traditional forms of policing.**

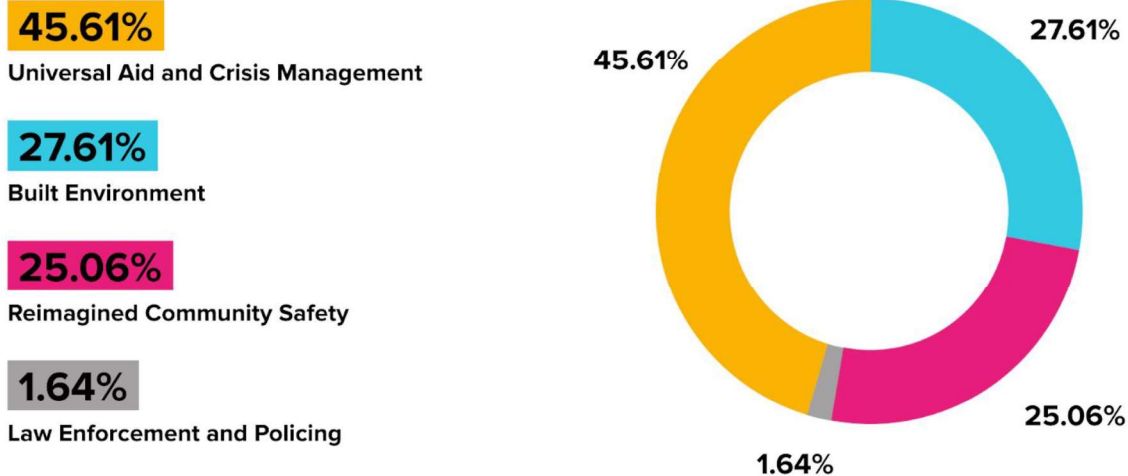
Here's a summary of our methodology and results:

- Tens of thousands of people were engaged in the drafting of the People's Budget. This includes 24,426 Angelenos who took our survey, which was distributed by over 50 organizations; 3,300 participants who engaged in our participatory budgeting process in real time on May 24, 2020 (via Zoom and Facebook Live); over 10,000 viewers who have watched that session after-the-fact; and thousands more who have dialogued with us on social media and in other forums.
- The top priorities for investment include housing, public health and healthcare, child and youth development, food security, public transportation, and environmental justice.
- The top priorities for divestment include parking enforcement, police and policing, and the City Attorney's Office.
- The People's Budget allocates just 1.64% of general funds to law enforcement and policing - far less than one-tenth of the 54% given to the LAPD in the Mayor's proposed budget.
- The People's Budget allocates the largest amount of money to Universal Aid and Crisis Management (45.61%), followed by Built Environment (27.61%), then Reimagined Community Safety (25.06%), and finally Law Enforcement and Police (1.64%). These categories are further defined below.

We implore the Los Angeles City Council to take action and adopt a budget that aligns with the priorities of the people who they have been elected to represent.

THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET

THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET PRIORITIES



SPENDING AREAS

UNIVERSAL AID AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

The Universal Aid and Crisis Management funding category supports the basic needs of Angelenos like housing, food, healthcare, economic assistance and emergency relief. Both survey participants and those participating in our participatory budgeting session emphasized universal aid and crisis management as their top priority, with a particular focus on housing.

This funding area includes funding for long-term housing, renter support and emergency housing, food assistance, support for those seeking work, support for small businesses, providing public health care, offering youth development programs and supporting youth centers, fighting the impacts of climate change and ensuring our city's environment is protected. This area also includes emergency preparedness for natural disasters like earthquakes and fire as well as the public health disasters.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Built Environment funding category focuses on our city's physical infrastructure like public transportation, libraries, parks, public works and the fire department. Based on our survey results, these are essential public goods for Angelenos.

REIMAGINED COMMUNITY SAFETY

Participants were also committed to reimagining community safety and building and resourcing restorative justice practices that enable strong communities without law enforcement presence or intervention. The Reimagined Community Safety funding category supports a community-led safety model including investing in mental health and harm reduction approaches. Rather than funding police that bring violence and harm into our communities, Reimagined Community Safety invests in communities themselves to determine what they need and to offer them support in executing those programs.

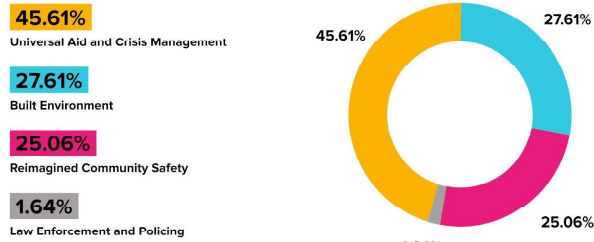
Specific initiatives that could be included in this category are family counseling, restorative justice programs, reparations to victims and their families, community-led crisis response programs, gang prevention/intervention/recovery without police involvement, and domestic violence prevention/intervention/recovery without police involvement. This category also includes building stronger connections among neighbors through investing in community-led events.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

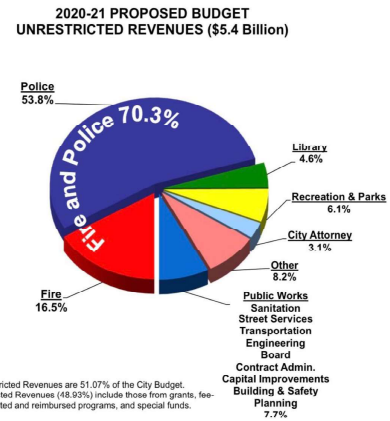
The law enforcement category included all traditional approaches, including police, City Attorney, and traffic enforcement. Across all demographics of survey respondents, this was ranked as the lowest priority for spending.

COMPARISON WITH THE MAYOR'S BUDGET

The People's Budget



The Mayor's Budget



The People's Budget Allocations

Universal Aid and Crisis Management	45.61%
Built Environment	27.61%
Reimagined Community Safety	25.06%
Law Enforcement and Policing	1.64%

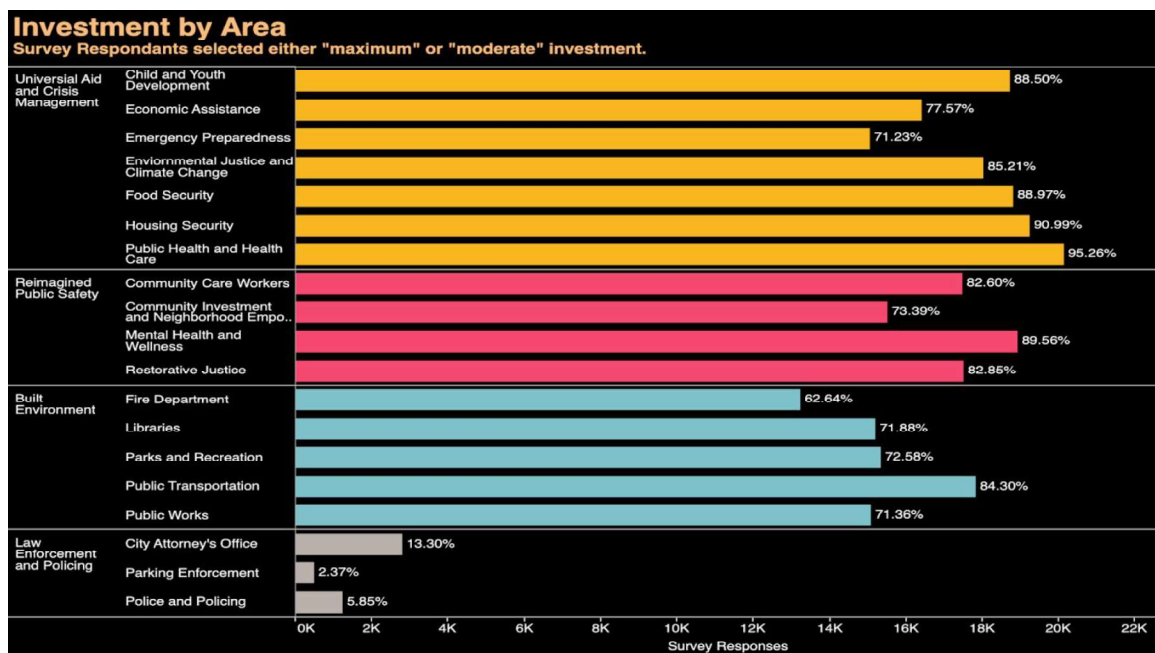
The Mayor's Budget Allocations

Police	53.8%
Fire	16.5%
Other	8.2%
Public Works	7.7%
Recreation & Parks	6.1%
Library	4.6%
City Attorney	3.1%

TOP PRIORITIES FOR INVESTMENT

Top areas where People's Budget survey respondents wanted to see **investment** are:

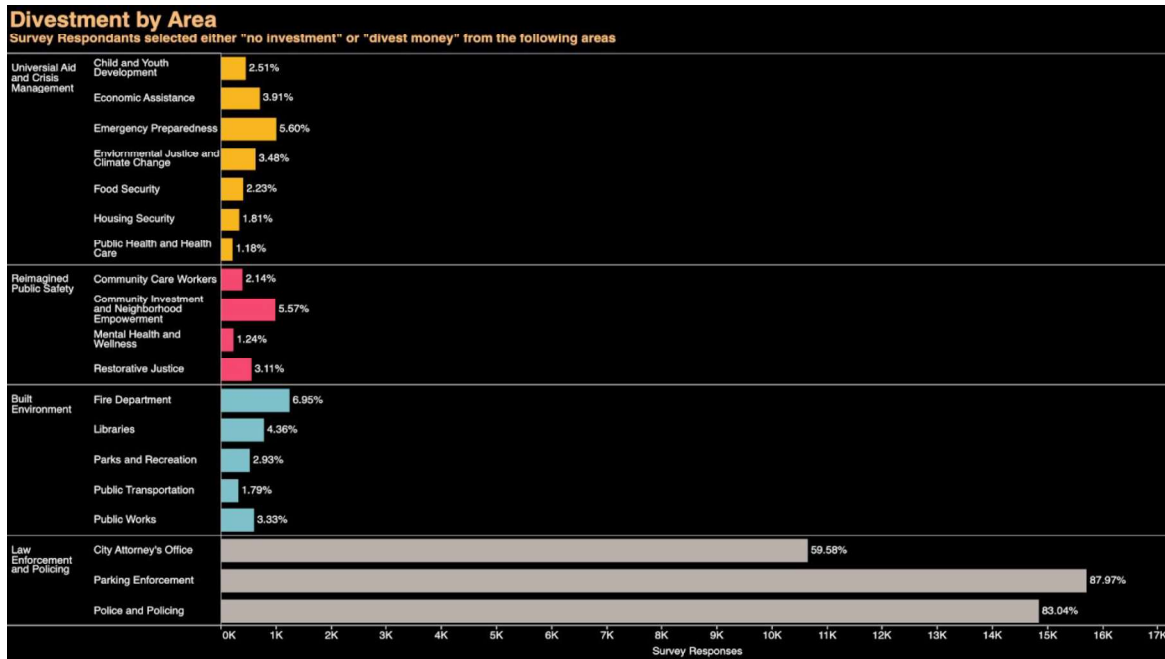
- **Housing Security**
Ensuring people have housing and can stay in housing
- **Mental Health and Wellness**
Supporting mental health needs with counseling and community-led crisis response
- **Public Health and Healthcare**
Offering public healthcare and ensuring everyone can stay healthy
- **Public Transportation**
Providing all Angelenos the ability to move around the city by making public transit free



TOP PRIORITIES FOR DIVESTMENT

Top areas where People's Budget survey respondents wanted to see **divestment** are:

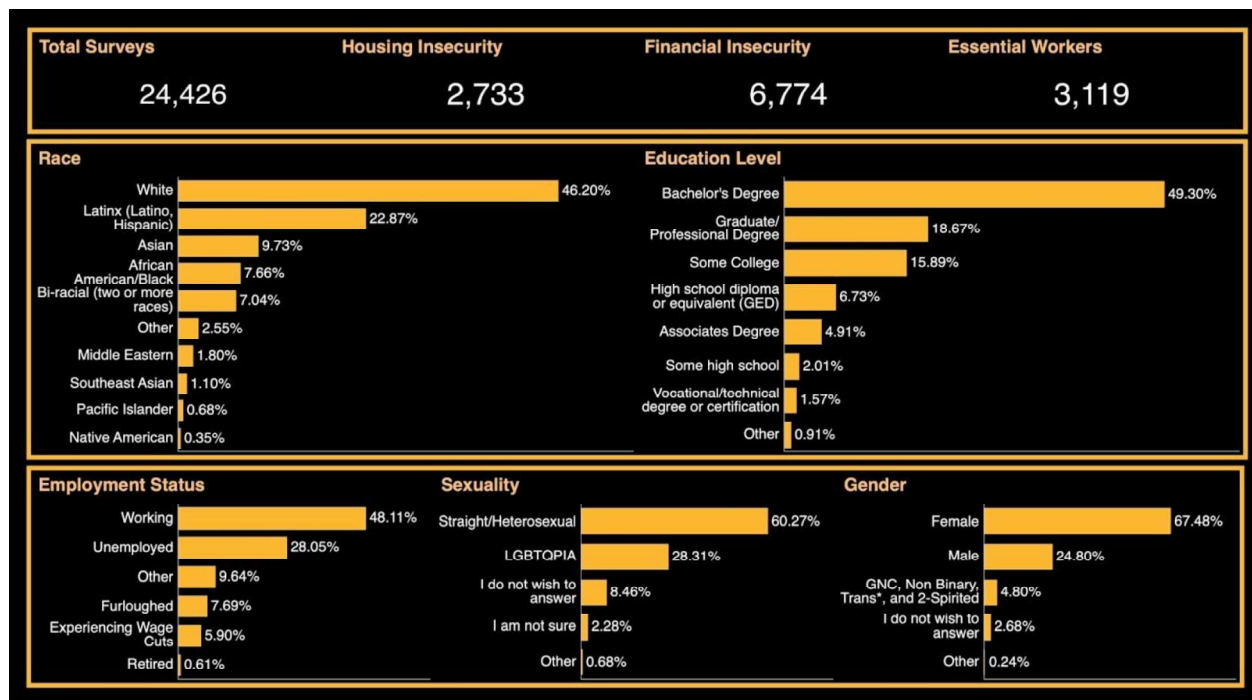
- Parking Enforcement
- Police and Policing
- City Attorney's Office



PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

A survey was sent out by over 50 community organizations, with city-wide presence and representing neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles. The survey was also posted on more than 100 social media accounts and People's Budget LA's website. Responses were only accepted from residents of the City of Los Angeles who could identify their area of residence on an interactive map. Beyond the solicitation of survey responses, the coalition held a two-hour, online participatory budgeting session on Sunday, May 24, 2020 to share information about the city budgeting process and to gather public input. More than 10,000 people have viewed the session so far. Since then, our grassroots engagement has exploded: People's Budget LA has trended #1 in the U.S. on Twitter and our website has seen over 200,000 unique visitors to our website.

24,426 Angelenos responded to the survey, which was distributed by over 50 community organizations. Every council district has at least 300 respondents, and some have over 2,000 respondents. 3,300 participants engaged in our participatory budgeting process in real time on May 24, 2020 (via Zoom and Facebook Live), and over 10,000 viewers have watched that session after-the-fact. Since then, tens of thousands more have dialogued with us on social media and in other forums.



The survey data is available for exploration in a Tableau dashboard (linked at PeoplesBudgetLA.com).

ADOPT A PEOPLE'S BUDGET

We believe that the government should be responsive to the needs, priorities, and demands of the people. There is clearly a wide chasm between the budget proposed by the Mayor (and directly or indirectly endorsed by the City Council) and the one envisioned by Los Angeles residents. The City Charter enables Council to pass or revise the Mayor's budget proposal or submit a new budget for implementation. In a democracy, the Council should listen to the will of the people and pass a People's Budget that centers the priorities that Angelenos have listed as central to them.

Under the leadership of BLM-LA, our fight for a People's Budget has engaged the residents of Los Angeles in a way that has likely never been done before. More people are paying attention than ever, and are willing to hold our politicians' feet to the fire. We have taken local politics by storm and our ideas have reverberated in cities across the country.

The \$100-\$150 million in cuts to LAPD proposed by some councilmembers and the Mayor are not enough; we will not be satisfied with crumbs. We are fighting for transformative change. We are fighting for the abolition of police and prisons. We are just getting started.

ABOUT THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET LA COALITION

The People's Budget LA is a coalition convened by Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles. The coalition includes community organizations, faith leaders, parents, teachers, students, nonprofit leaders, and individuals from across Los Angeles.

Organizations who have signed onto the People's Budget LA initiative include:

Africa Town Coalition	Ktown for All	Students Deserve
Bend The Arc: Jewish Action, Southern California	LA Defensa	Sunrise Movement LA
Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles Community Coalition	LA Voice	TransLatina Coalition
Crenshaw Subway Coalition	Labor/Community Strategy Center	VyBe Local, LA Tenants Union
Dignity and Power NOW	Los Angeles Community Action Network	Westside Local, LA Tenants Union
Ground Game LA	March For Our Lives	White People 4 Black Lives
The Justice Collaborative	People's City Council	Youth Justice Coalition
	Stop LAPD Spying	
	Street Watch LA/DSA	

Communication from Public

Name: Kristy P

Date Submitted: 06/18/2020 02:32 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of the City of Los Angeles, I'm urging this Committee, the full City Council and Mayor to ensure full funding of \$800,000 to the FY20-21 budget for the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office, Climate Emergency Commission, and Community Assemblies in the FY-2020-21 budget. As the City considers what a truly just economic recovery from COVID looks like and how to uproot deep-seated structural racism -- all while meeting the urgency of the climate crisis -- these initiatives are more important than ever to ensure working class communities of color have a central role and that justice and sustainability are core principles. We also urge this Committee to embrace the call from Black Lives Matter and the People's Budget to defund LAPD and reimagine community safety while rejecting scare tactics from those who are protected by the current policing system. Thank you."

Communication from Public

Name: Diana De Leon

Date Submitted: 06/15/2020 01:24 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I live in District 10. I stand with the thousands of Angelenos pushing for major cuts to policing beyond \$150 million. Instead, please reallocate those funds to much-needed community services to address housing, education, mental health issues, public transportation, and parks and recreation.

Communication from Public

Name: David Bauer

Date Submitted: 06/15/2020 01:55 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I wasn't able to listen until now, so I do not know what has already been said, so I apologize if I am repeating what others have already said. David Bauer, Van Nuys, CA. Voicing support for Black Lives Matter and defunding the police. Only one detail to suggest: since the police are often asked to take care of problems that they are not equipped to handle, such as homelessness and mental health issues, perhaps we can use police data to inform us on what portion of their budget can be allocated on better equipped staff to handle police inappropriate issues. For example, if 35% of police calls are the result of mental health issues, around 35% of the police budget should be spent on a mental health service that is better equipped to handle those issues. If we apply this theory, we can reduce the number of responsibilities that fall on the police and really save them for the things that they are needed. This way we can defund the police and reduce them to what they should be, and reform our support systems to eliminate the social problems that are the true root of the problem. Thank you for your time. Black Lives Matter.

Communication from Public

Name: Esme

Date Submitted: 06/15/2020 09:35 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Esme and I am speaking on item #3 from today's meeting. Today we listened to this beautiful presentation by Black Lives Matter Los Angeles. Like they said, they are not paid to do this work, and they, alongside thousands of other activists, organizers, are tired. It is actually an embarrassment that we have to hold your feet to the fire. This is your actual job, to serve the public and be the voice of your constituents, who are now enraged, screaming, and shouting what we want and what we need. You made zero clear commitments today. We want healing, health, and progress, not violence. Police are violence workers. Listen to Dr. Abdullah. Be brave. Be courageous. Defund the police and adopt the people's budget.

Communication from Public

Name: Mattia

Date Submitted: 06/15/2020 11:46 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: The people have spoken, THEY HAVE BEEN SPEAKING. Until we address and take the action of defunding the police and INVESTING in our black and brown communities there will be no change!! WHY CAN'T WE INVEST BILLIONS IN THE EDUCATION, HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEMS in low income neighborhoods where black and brown folks primarily reside???! It's 2020 wake up!! Do what you need to do to make it happen!

Communication from Public

Name: Jasmine Lin

Date Submitted: 06/15/2020 12:09 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: To the LA City Council: I urge you to listen to the people of Los Angeles and adopt a People's Budget. Mayor Garcetti's decision to reevaluate his budget to find \$150 million to remove from the LAPD budget is performative at best. His reapportionment proposal would still leave the LAPD with over 50% of unrestricted funds-- I don't understand how this could sound reasonable to anyone on city council. For those who cannot imagine defunding the police or find this to be "radical"-- our local, state, and national budgets have been defunding public education and housing for years. These are universal needs that benefit all, while the police only protects those who are wealthy and white. I encourage us as a city to look to our friends in Minneapolis who have announced their plans to dismantle its police department and work with local black organizers (who have been doing this work of re-imagining public safety for years) to build a new public safety system. Los Angeles should be at the forefront of this new era of transforming public safety that is inclusive to all, not fighting for outdated, oppressive police systems that resemble slavery and segregation eras. I am asking for a COMMITMENT to reimagining what safety looks like outside of discipline and punishment (which has not worked).

Communication from Public

Name: Iris Hu

Date Submitted: 06/15/2020 12:10 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Our names are iris yirei hu and David Bell and we are visual artists in Los Angeles. We are writing to urge you to SAVE the Department of Cultural Affairs and locate more city funds to support this vital cultural resource that we have. We and many members of our arts community have shown our work at Barnsdall Art Park, and we see it as one of the only civic venues and departments that is committed to working towards equity and inclusive practices. As working artists, we feel that the mere fact that budget cuts aimed at the DCA is even on the table for discussion is humiliating, invalidating, and unacceptable. The people of Los Angeles are suffering from the lack of equitable cultural spaces to learn, to share, to show their art, to speak, to connect. In a city so diverse and beautiful as ours, it is both a civic service (from you) and cultural service (from you AND artists) to have platforms and funding to support art that connects individuals, communities, and cultures. Cutting the DCA's budget would be not only a complete disservice to the City of Los Angeles, but would be a statement to the broader world that art and humanity are not prioritized (yet, clearly, policing humanity is). As a government, you should entrust artists to model a world we wish to see by creating space and allocate funds for imagination and manifestation. Making art and giving form to culture is a FUNDAMENTAL human and societal experience, and we need MORE money and support from you. We pay way too much in taxes for the DCA to be defunded. We demand that you identify more funds from the proposed LAPD budget to reallocate into education, arts and culture. DCA is a VITAL resource for the artistic community here in LA. You would be putting artists in danger and in even more precarity if you defund the DCA. Respect what we bring to the society and respect our stories, otherwise, without us, the city's future will be even more grim.

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah Krausse

Date Submitted: 06/15/2020 12:18 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council Members, I am writing to you as a concerned resident of Los Angeles. I urge you to immediately adopt the People's Budget, and channel funding to support underserved communities and Defund The Police. I firmly support BLMLA's important, necessary work to bring attention to the inequities that the current budget further enacts. Please make these necessary, systemic changes NOW. This is history in the making, and we have a chance to make this city a less-racist place, and lead the country in change. Adopt the People's Budget. Defund the Police and create a community-based policy-making group to be involved in further, ongoing budget-making. Thank you, Sarah Krausse Los Angeles Resident, Los Feliz

Communication from Public

Name: Charley Casler

Date Submitted: 06/15/2020 12:36 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, my name is Charley Casler and I am an Angeleno who lives in District 14. I am writing to urge you to consider and adopt the People's Budget LA for the 2020-2021 fiscal year and revise the current budget accordingly. BLM-LA's presentation this morning showed overwhelming support for this budget and I will be disappointed if the Council does not act to adopt its proposals. Unlike the Mayor's budget, which — even with cuts and proposed reapportionments — gives more than half of unrestricted funds to the LAPD, the Peoples Budget LA gives only 5.7% to the police. Survey takers determined that the city should prioritize universal needs (such as housing, childcare, healthy food, clear air and water), pandemic recovery, built environment, and reimagined public safety over the police department. You need to engage directly with communities, especially Black and Indigenous communities — the most at risk of police brutality and murder — to create a budget that serves ALL Angelenos. Over the past two weeks, our city has shown its overwhelming support for defunding the LAPD. It has made clear — through both physical and digital actions— that LA must not use its money to fund the murderous LAPD. Throughout this time of mass protest, the police have reacted with extreme violence and unwarranted escalation towards peaceful protestors and our unhoused neighbors. LAPD Commander Cory Palka flashed a White Power signal on television. Chief Moore blamed the police murder of George Floyd on LA protestors. Many police officers have hurt, abused and maimed. This is unacceptable and LAPD must be defunded, now. I urge you to support the People's Budget LA. As Council President Nury Martinez said at the end of the presentation, "This is exactly how you reimagine neighborhoods." Thank you for your time, Charley Casler

Communication from Public

Name: Sydney Steinberg
Date Submitted: 06/16/2020 10:53 AM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: SPEAKING ON ITEMS 33, pass the vacancy tax motion!
General comment: ADOPT THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET AND
DEFUND THE POLICE!!!!

Communication from Public

Name: Katie McVay

Date Submitted: 06/16/2020 11:14 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Coronavirus is still ravaging LA. Cancel rent NOW to keep our housing crisis from ballooning. I support defunding the LAPD who do nothing to improve our communities and instead terrorize us. I support Herb Wesson's motion to replace the LAPD. Mitch O'Farrell sucks eggs, and everything he does is either useless or harmful. I cannot wait to vote against him.

Communication from Public

Name: Luke Albert

Date Submitted: 06/17/2020 10:45 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I wanted to write a comment in how great the Wesson and Martinez proposal is to divert 911 calls away from police and to trained, unarmed professionals. The proposal must be passed and adequately funded, or else this will merely be a symbol and the disappointment of the people will be felt at the polls. Ultimately, this is a great first step in what should be a series of efforts by the Council to reduce the size of LAPD and the total contact between police and the people of LA. The next step should be to adopt a People's Budget for LA. The goal should be a total defunding and dismantling of LAPD with the wealth of resources that they waste and abuse going to provide needs to Latinx and Black communities in Los Angeles. A safe and just LA will be one without the LAPD and an abundance of support for the people.

Communication from Public

Name: Gina Viola

Date Submitted: 06/17/2020 11:23 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: While I applaud the city council leadership's move after hearing directly from the PeoplesBudgetLA what the community is demanding from this council, Historically These superficial policy reforms do nothing but give politicians a place to hide. We need to have a firm commitment that this re-structuring in how to achieve public safety, will mean a direct reduction to the LAPD both in budget and in staff. We cannot simply REFORM police to meet this new criteria. My fear is that is exactly what will happen and then exactly nothing will change. The LAPD has been in REFORM mode since the early 90's and it leads the nation in the killing of civilians. LAPD has been continuously granted budget dollars meant for Health & Human Services. Those dollars now need to be taken back. 70% of the folks in LA County jail are there for mental health, addiction struggles and poverty. So let's start with a 70% reduction to the LAPD TODAY!

Communication from Public

Name: Edward O'Connor

Date Submitted: 06/17/2020 11:24 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I'm writing a general comment for the June 17, Council Meeting. I want to offer praise for the Wesson Martinez motion to divert nonviolent calls for service away from LAPD toward unarmed, non-violent agencies. It is a good first step, but the proposal must include robust funding for these alternative, non-violent agencies. That funding must come from DEFUNDING THE LAPD and adopting the People's Budget. \$150 to \$250 million is not enough. We must completely dismantle the LAPD and rebuild our public safety system. The LAPD and their corrupt unions are compromised and MUST GO. In addition, from what I've read, the motion only addresses the non-violent issues of homelessness, mental health, and COVID-19 related responses. Besides homelessness and mental health, there are a myriad of other non-violent crimes that don't need to be handled by armed officers. These non-violent crimes include traffic stops; jay-walking; noise complaints; graffiti; drug trades, counterfeit bills, sex work, and other street economies. While alleviating the LAPD from the responsibility of dealing with homelessness and mental health issues is absolutely necessary, I think we ALSO have to remove armed LAPD officers from these other non-violent situations. Because, as we know, they too often result in someone getting shot and killed. The City Council must double their efforts, and make sure that DEFUNDING THE POLICE does not just include divesting 150 to 250 million, and redirecting homelessness and mental health issues to non-violent agencies. We must completely divest from the LAPD and rebuild our public safety agencies from the ground up. And also reinvest the billions saved into community resources like housing, education, crisis management, and built environment. DEFUND THE POLICE. ADOPT THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET. BLACK LIVES MATTER.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/19/2020 06:12 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I am a 30 year resident of Los Angeles. I Do NOT support taking any money away from our Police. They do not have enough support as it is now. They can barely respond when we need them now. I understand the anger about what happened in Minnesota. But don't let what happened there guide our city. We are a diverse city with a diverse police force. They spend more of their time helping people. Who is going to do what they do if you defund them? Whose going to be a available 24/7 to respond to abuse calls? This is a snap decision and is not the answer. You

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/19/2020 08:02 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: We need to support the police department and defunding is not the answer. I'm a Los Angeles resident and my neighborhood has seen a drastic rise in home break-ins. WE NEED THE POLICE!! This defunding concept is dangerous. Why don't you defund LAHSA who is ripping off the city and not doing the job they are getting paid to do.

Communication from Public

Name: Stacy Hensel

Date Submitted: 06/19/2020 08:54 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I am a Los Angeles resident and I DO NOT support defunding the LAPD. I support our men in blue.

Communication from Public

Name: Don Hensel

Date Submitted: 06/19/2020 08:54 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I support our LAPD and do not support defunding. They need more money, not less.